

THE OLD PATHS

Volume 24, Issue 20

July 16, 2017

“Words Are Powerful”

Jarrod Jacobs

In our recent Bible study in the book of Ecclesiastes, we made the point that the spoken and written word is powerful. This is something that has been observed by men through the years. In 1839, playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton coined the memorable phrase, “The pen is mightier than the sword.” Though memorable, this sentiment is not original to him. Robert Burton, a writer in the early 17th century said, “A blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword.” Earlier than this, George Whetstone wrote in 1582, “The dash of a pen is more grievous than the counter use of a lance.” ⁽¹⁾ These sayings offer real insight into the power of men’s words, don’t they? Our words can wound or heal. We recognize this with men’s words, but do we appreciate the power God’s words carry (Jer. 23:29)?

Words convey thoughts or ideas. They are the product of the heart (Matt. 12:34-36; Ps. 64:2-6). While the thoughts of men carry influence and power (Matt. 12:37; Jas. 3), we know that the thoughts of God carry the ultimate power! God’s word created us and can save or condemn us (Gen. 1; Jn. 1:1-3; Matt. 25:31-46; Rom. 1:16, 10:17; Col. 1:5-6)!

While “the pen is mightier than the sword” is not a Biblical statement, it is Biblical in its sentiment. A casual reading of the Bible will show us that God placed great emphasis upon the written word. From Exodus 17:14 through Revelation 21:5, God tells people no less than 82 times to “write” His will down for the benefit of future generations! Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus asking folks seven different times, “*Have ye not read?*” Notice, He was not asking what they had heard in these times, but what they had read. Obviously, Jesus was emphasizing what had been specifically taught in God’s word! Adding to this study, the word “*written*” is written 282 times in the Bible.

To further emphasize the power of the word and how it is more powerful than swords, guns, and other methods of carnal warfare, please read what was written by the apostle Paul. He said, “*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:4-5). Please go back and read these words carefully. The written word has a power that no earthly weapon has, for it can bring even our “thoughts” to obedience! A physical weapon may be used to control someone’s body, and even bring injury or death, but no weapon can change or affect the thoughts of a man! Words can!

The power of God’s word is obvious. It is authoritative (II Tim. 3:16-17)! It has power (Heb. 4:12)! It tells us how to live in this world (Matt. 7:12), how to be saved (Mk. 16:16), and prepare for Heaven (I Cor. 15:58). Truly, this word is powerful! Is it any wonder then that God has placed such great emphasis upon this word? Let us be thankful for God’s written word. It will never pass away (Matt. 24:35). It will keep us from sin (Ps. 119:11). It will feed our souls (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14; Matt. 5:6)!

Let us examine ourselves and ask how much time we are spending with God’s powerful word (Ps. 119:97)! Truly, “the pen is mightier than the sword.” Robert Burton’s words also ring true, because the word of God cuts deeper than any sword (Heb. 4:12)! Just ask those who heard the truth on Pentecost (Acts 2:37)! Ask anyone who has been converted to Christ!

1. Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-30729480>

The Blood Of Christ And Baptism

Joel Raulerson

Have you ever noticed the connection between the blood of Christ and baptism? The Bible describes the blood of Christ and baptism in similar ways. Let’s take some time to study some of the similarities in this article.

Both Are For The Remission Of Sins

First, we see that the blood of Christ is essential for the remission of our sins. Jesus had to come to this earth as a sacrifice for our sins. His blood paid a price that we could never hope to pay (Col. 2:14; Matt. 26:28). The only price that could ever truly pay for the remission of our sins was Christ’s blood. How then do we receive the remission of sins? How do we come in contact with the cleansing effects of Christ’s blood since He died 2000 years ago? The only way we can have access to Christ’s blood and receive the remission of our sins is to be baptized (Acts 2:38). Just as Christ’s blood was necessary for the remission of sins, so also God commands baptism as the avenue for us to receive the remission of sins.

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

Both Wash Away Our Sins

Just as Christ's blood remits our sins, a similar truth is taught when the Bible says it washes away sins. The only way we can ever be freed from our sins is through the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5). The blood of Christ is crucial for the washing away of our sins (Heb. 9:22). We will never receive cleansing without Christ's blood! How does baptism fit in God's plan in this case? By a simple study, we learn that just as the blood of Christ is the only sacrifice that could completely wash away our sins, so also the only way to have our sins washed away is through baptism (Acts 22:16).

Both Purify Us

We are purified through the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:13-14). The blood of bulls and goats could not do it. The wonderful thing about the blood of Christ is that it purifies us before the Lord and our sins are forgotten. Ever since sin entered the world, humanity has been looking to be purified so that they can return to a proper relationship with God. How can we have access to the blood so as to be pure? God declared that baptism is that avenue by which we can be purified (Heb. 10:22). Baptism gives us access to the power of Christ's blood so that we can have our sins removed and be pure in God's sight.

Both Add Us To The Church

The blood of Christ broke down the wall of separation between us and God (Eph. 2:13-16). Now, we can be a part of Christ's body, the church that He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The way that we can enter into Christ's church is by being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). When we are baptized, God will add us to His church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13).

Both Justify Us

Romans 5:9 says the blood of Christ justifies us. It sets us free from sin and makes us righteous. In like manner, baptism will justify and set anyone free no matter what they have done (1 Cor. 6:11).

We are not justified and set free from sin just by getting wet (Jas. 2:24). It is only by His blood sacrifice that can we ever be added to the church and have our debt paid. To be baptized is to follow the commands of God and it is an answer to our plea for the remission of our sins (Acts 10:48; 1 Pet. 3:21). The connection between the blood of Christ and baptism is undeniable. You cannot be saved without these two elements. Have you been washed in the blood of Christ by being baptized for the remission of your sins (Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16)?

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ..." (Jer. 6:16).



Spotlight On A Bible Verse: I Corinthians 11:28-29

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

Partaking of the Lord’s Supper is a very serious and somber time in our worship. In I Corinthians 11, the apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians, (and us), that partaking of the Lord’s Supper requires self-examination as much as it does our memory of what the Lord did at the cross (v. 25).

As we partake of the Lord’s Supper today, let us focus our minds in the right way. Are we remembering the Lord’s death (v. 25)? Are we examining ourselves as we partake (v. 28)? Partaking of the Lord’s Supper requires our full attention. It is not some “ritual,” or some action we “do” and move on to other things. Eating and drinking in an unworthy manner will result in our being guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (v. 27), and therefore, eating and drinking damnation to ourselves (v. 29)! Remember, the Corinthians had treated this memorial in a light-hearted way and had perverted its purpose. Let us not be guilty of this!

To those men who serve at the Lord’s table, please make sure to emphasize this aspect of the Supper! Let us remember that the Lord’s Supper is not an “afterthought,” nor is it something to treat lightly. Without proper reflection and examination during this observance, we endanger our souls! Let us never forget this!

— Jarrod Jacobs



“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”

Please visit with the Caneyville church of Christ...

Location: 103 N. Main St. Caneyville, KY

Website: <http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>

Times Of Services...

Sunday: 10:00 am (Bible classes), 10:45 am & 5:00 pm (Worship)

Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Bible classes)

Other opportunities for Bible study:

“The Ancient Landmark” Radio Program airs Mon-Fri on 99.9 FM, WXMZ (10:30-11:00 AM) & 101.5 FM, WL BQ (5:30-6:00 AM)

“The Ancient Landmark” television program airs on:

www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994

Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs

Phone: (270) 589-4167

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).